

Professor Joshua Lederberg

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Finnish Committee on Study and  
Training in the United States  
Satamakatu 2  
Helsinki

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to have an opportunity to write to you concerning Drs. Olavi and Pirjo Helena Makela, both of whom have been studying in my laboratory under your auspices. As you know, Dr. Olavi Makela is resigning his fellowship from you to accept the opportunity of continuing his work under the auspices of the U.S. Public Health Service Foreign Research Fellowships. I am sure this action reflects no lack of appreciation on his part; but it is important that he and Mrs. Makela have a source of support to enable them to continue their stay and complete the work each is doing. Dr. Makela has been working closely with my colleague, Dr. Nossal, in a field of immunology somewhat different from his previous experience, the cellular basis of antibody formation. He has been a splendid co-worker, has learned a great deal from this work, and we have been very happy to have him here.

Mrs. Makela is the particular concern of this letter. She has proven to be a brilliant research worker, tackling a very difficult problem with great initiative and insight. She had not formerly had much experience in genetics, and with a minimum of assistance she has attacked some new problems and is making an important contribution in original research. Meanwhile, she has rapidly been absorbing much background knowledge in the field of bacterial genetics. I feel that it is quite important that she be able to prolong her visit until summer, 1961 as she and her husband hope to do. While he has already accomplished a great deal, the additional time would allow her to complete a significant piece of work, in the hybridization of two distinct bacterial genera, *Escherichia* X *Salmonella*. I am encouraging her to request an exceptional favor from you, to permit an extension of her fellowship until July or September 1961. A possible basis you may wish to consider, apart from the intrinsic merits of her work and abilities, is the fact that she has now completed the requirements for her Doctor's degree, and would therefore qualify for a higher class of fellowship.

I have no hesitation in predicting that Dr. Pirjo Helena Makela should be able to provide national leadership for an important field of research, bacterial genetics, which at the present time is completely unrepresented in Finland. I do urge that you give every possible consideration to the means by which she might complete her studies in this laboratory. I would be happy to assign our own funds for her support, but we are already deeply committed, and are also using substantial amounts of money for the actual costs of her laboratory work.